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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/590,099	06/09/2000	Michael J. Cannata	3251141-0002	1745

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EXAMINER	
TODD, GREGORY G	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2157	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/590,099	CANNATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gregory G Todd	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 July 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-20,67 and 68* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1,2,4-20,67 and 68* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is a fourth office action in response to applicant's amendment filed, 07 July 2004, of application filed, with the above serial number, on 09 June 2000 in which claims 14, and 19-20 have been amended and claims 67-68 have been added. Claims 1-2, 4-20, and 67-68 are therefore pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 16-20, and 67-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang (hereinafter "Jiang", 6,167,432) in view of Aras et al (hereinafter "Aras", 5,867,653).

As per Claim 1, Jiang discloses a system for providing a collaborative workspace for sharing data, wherein Jiang discloses:

(i) a network-connected server capable of receiving an initiate instruction from a primary user, said server for maintaining a hierarchy between said primary user (e.g. chairperson) and at least one secondary user (at least Fig. 3, 5; col. 5, lines 3-12);

(ii) a site builder for creating a dedicated site on said server in response to said initiate instruction, said dedicated site defining said collaborative workspace (setting up conference web site) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28);

(iii) a transmitter for sending information about the existence of said dedicated site to said at least one secondary user nominated by said primary user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(iv) a communicator for transmitting data a) between said dedicated site and, said primary user and b) between said dedicated site and said at least one secondary user, said data being shared in accordance with said hierarchy between said users via said dedicated site (interconnected network with host hosting communication between participants) (at least col. 2, lines 19-33; col. 5, lines 3-26);

(v) memory for storing data associated with said dedicated site, said data from said primary and said at least one secondary user (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52);

(vi) a processor for processing said stored data, said processed data being transmitted by said communicator to said primary user and said at least one secondary user (e.g. MIME type stream) (at least col. 5, lines 12-22).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very

well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

As per Claim 2.

wherein said processed data is stored by said primary user and said at least one secondary user (stored in browser to launch an app) (at least col. 5, lines 19-26).

As per Claims 4 and 18.

wherein said primary and said at least one secondary users communicate via a web-browser (at least col. 4, lines 6-18).

As per Claim 5.

wherein said server contains an address database of communication addresses for said at least one secondary user connected to said network (IP addresses) (at least col. 3, lines 48-64).

As per Claim 6.

wherein said network includes an internet connection (at least col. 4, lines 6-12).

As per Claim 7.

wherein said primary and said at least one secondary users accessing said network are assigned a unique personal workspace for providing said primary and said at least one secondary users with access to features of said network designated for said primary and said at least one secondary users (e.g. private / public, lounge, etc) (at least col. 4 line 59 - col. 5 line 2).

As per Claim 8.

wherein a user is assigned a password enabling access to predefined sites within said server (at least col. 4, lines 59-65).

As per Claim 9.

wherein the processor includes providing the primary user with a workgroup activity application (e.g. helper app) (at least col. 4, lines 24-30).

As per Claim 10.

wherein said workgroup activity application is selected from the group comprising bulletin board, chat room, calendar, contact database, change control, event planner, group discussion, issue management, project collaboration, presentation library,

decision survey in a box, NGS proposal development and document management (at least col. 4, lines 6-30).

As per Claim 16.

wherein said transmitter is selected from the group comprising e-mail, a pop-up window (auto launching app), a telephone, and a facsimile (at least col. 3, lines 48-64).

As per Claim 17, Jiang discloses a method for providing a collaborative workspace for sharing data, wherein Jiang discloses:

(i) providing a network-connected server having upload and download capabilities (at least Fig. 8);

(ii) receiving instructions uploaded from a. first user and for creating a dedicated network site on said server, said dedicated network site having a unique name based on instructions received (setting up conference web site / virtual conf. hall) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28; col. 4, lines 6-19);

(iii) communicating the existence of said dedicated intranet site to a nominated second user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(iv) downloading data from said dedicated network site to said first and second users (e.g. helper app) (at least col. 5, lines 46-53);

(vi) storing data to be shared by said users in the dedicated web-site (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to

another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

As per Claim 19 and 20, Jiang discloses a computer configured to operate a groupware application program for sharing data, wherein Jiang discloses:

(i) a network for connecting to at least a primary and a secondary user (interconnected network) (at least col. 2, lines 19-33);

(ii) a site builder for receiving instructions input from said primary user and for creating a dedicated site within the computer based on said instructions (setting up conference web site) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28);

(iii) a mailer for looking up an address of said secondary user from an address database (IP addresses stored at site) (at least col. 3, lines 48-64);

(iv) a communicator for communicating the existence of said dedicated site to said secondary user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(v) memory for storing information at said dedicated site at the request of the primary and the secondary user (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52); and

(vi) a processor for processing said stored information at the request of the primary and the secondary user (e.g. MIME type stream) (at least col. 5, lines 12-22).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and

enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

As per Claim 67, Jiang teaches a system for providing a collaborative workspace for sharing data, comprising:

(i) a network-connected web server capable of receiving an initiate instruction from a primary user (e.g. chairperson), said web server maintaining a hierarchy between said primary user and at least one secondary user (at least Fig. 3, 5; col. 5, lines 3-12);

(ii) a site builder for creating a dedicated site on said web server in response to said initiate instruction, said dedicated site defining said collaborative workspace (setting up conference web site) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28);

(iii) a transmitter responsive to said initiate instruction for sending information about the existence of said dedicated site to said at least one secondary user nominated by said primary user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(iv) a communicator for transmitting said data associated with said dedicated site (a) between said dedicated site and, said primary user and (b) between said dedicated site and said at least one secondary user, said data being shared through said dedicated site in accordance with said hierarchy between said users as said hierarchy is maintained by said web server (interconnected network with host hosting communication between participants) (at least col. 2, lines 19-33; col. 5, lines 3-26);

(v) memory for storing said data associated with said dedicated site, said stored data being from said primary and said at least one secondary user (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52); and

(vi) a processor configured to support the dedicated site for processing said stored data, said processed data being transmitted by said communicator to said primary user and said at least one secondary user (e.g. MIME type stream and stored administrative functions) (at least col. 5, lines 3-26; col. 2, lines 19-33).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing

communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

As per Claim 68, Jiang teaches a system for providing a collaborative workspace for sharing data, comprising:

(i) a network-connected Internet web server capable of receiving an initiate instruction transmitted over the Internet from a primary user (e.g. chairperson), said web server maintaining a hierarchy between said primary user and at least one secondary user (at least Fig. 3, 5; col. 5, lines 3-12);

(ii) a site builder associated with said web server for creating a dedicated site on said web server in response to said initiate instruction, said dedicated site defining said collaborative workspace in response to said instructions (setting up conference web site) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28);

(iii) a transmitter responsive to said initiate instruction for sending information about the existence of said dedicated site to said at least one secondary user nominated by said primary user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(iv) a communicator for transmitting said data associated with said dedicated site (a) between said dedicated site and said primary user and (b) between said dedicated site and said at least one secondary user, said data being shared through said dedicated site in accordance with said hierarchy between said users as said hierarchy is maintained by said web server (interconnected network with host hosting communication between participants) (at least col. 2, lines 19-33; col. 5, lines 3-26);

(v) memory for storing said data associated with said dedicated site, said stored data being from said primary and said at least one secondary user (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52); and

(vi) a processor configured to support the dedicated site for processing said stored data and maintaining accessibility to said stored data to said primary user and said secondary user on said dedicated site, said processed data being transmitted by said communicator to said primary user and said at least one secondary user, whereby sharing of said stored data is accomplished (e.g. MIME type stream and stored administrative functions) (at least col. 5, lines 3-26; col. 2, lines 19-33).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer

system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

As per Claim 11.

Jiang teaches said at least one secondary user is a client (at least col. 1, lines 44-50; Fig. 6).

Jiang does not explicitly disclose said primary user is an advisor. OFFICIAL NOTICE is taken that Jiang's conference chair could act as an advisor. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of having an advisor advise clients with Jiang's system as this is simply a form of use for the invention and any person can behave as an advisor in a question/answer situation.

4. Claims 12-13, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang in view of Aras and further in view of Sammon et al (hereinafter "Sammon", 6,563,914).

As per Claim 12.

Jiang and Aras do not explicitly disclose said bulletin board and document management includes recommended advice and research documents from said advisor. However, the use and advantages for using such a service is well known to one

skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Sammon (at least col. 7, lines 9-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of a bulletin board into the lounge of Jiang and Aras as this would allow previous discussions, for example, to be posted and reviewed for members currently waiting for other members to join as Jiang discloses (see col. 4 line 59 - col. 5 line 2).

As per Claim 13.

wherein said chat room includes an on-line chat between said advisor (chair) and said client (at least col. 1, lines 44-50).

As per Claim 15.

wherein said group discussion includes a discussion between said advisor (chair) and said client (at least col. 1, lines 44-50).

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang in view of Aras and further in view of Pinard et al (hereinafter "Pinard", 5,940,834).

Jiang teaches a system for providing a collaborative workspace for sharing data, comprising:

(i) a network-connected server capable of receiving an initiate instruction from a primary user, said server for maintaining a hierarchy between said primary user (e.g. chairperson) and at least one secondary user (at least Fig. 3, 5; col. 5, lines 3-12);

(ii) a site builder for creating a dedicated site on said server in response to said initiate instruction, said dedicated site defining said collaborative workspace (setting up conference web site) (at least col. 2, lines 19-28);

(iii) a transmitter for sending information about the existence of said dedicated site to said at least one secondary user nominated by said primary user (transmit IP address) (at least col. 2, lines 28-38);

(iv) a communicator for transmitting said data (a) between said dedicated site and said primary user and (b) between said dedicated site and said at least one secondary user, said data being shared through said dedicated site in accordance with said hierarchy between (interconnected network with host hosting communication between participants) (at least col. 2, lines 19-33; col. 5, lines 3-26);

(v) memory for storing data associated with said dedicated site, said data from said primary and said at least one secondary user (at least col. 5, lines 3-16; col. 6, lines 51-52);

(vi) a processor for processing said stored data, said processed data being transmitted by said communicator to said primary user and said at least one secondary user (e.g. MIME type stream) (at least col. 5, lines 12-22).

Jiang discloses a communicator for transmitting data and memory for storing such data between the dedicated site and the participants; however, Jiang fails to disclose such centralization with all shared communication from one participant to another passing through a central location, as Jiang discloses such conferences being more peer-to-peer. However, the use and advantages for using such a protocol is very

well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by at least the teachings of Aras. Aras discloses a multicast system wherein all traffic from one participant is transmitted to a single multi-cast server to be transmitted to other participants (at least Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of Aras' centralized system into Jiang's system as Jiang already discloses administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site and it would be advantageous and simplified to not have a peer-to-peer system as in Jiang as this would allow the central server to perform special and enhanced functions on the communication between participants such as storing communication in addition to IP address databases and admin function as in Jiang and also to notify participants of a client having dropped a connection due to network failures as Aras suggests.

Jiang and Aras do not explicitly disclose the processor to include providing the primary user with a workgroup activity application comprising a calendar and event planner, said calendar and event planner include a list of tasks to be done and a list of upcoming events. However, the use and advantages for using such a event planning is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Pinard (at least col. 8 line 66 - col. 9 line 19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of a calendar to list upcoming dates and events and an event planner to include things to be done as Pinard discloses into Jiang and Aras' system as

this would allow the conferences to be planned ahead of time for specific conferences to be done, for example, every week on projects to be done.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicants argue, substantially, that A) Jiang teaches away from the proposed combination; B) The proposed modification is directly contrary to Jiang; and C) The case law is consistent with Applicant's remarks.

Applicants' arguments with respect to A) - C) are directed towards Applicants' Centralized feature, wherein Applicants argue Jiang does not teach a centralized system wherein communication between at least two participants goes through a central server or site, and that Jiang teaches away from such communication and instead offers at least two participants communicating in a "peer-to-peer" fashion without communication (shared data) going through said server / site.

Applicant's arguments filed 07 July 2004 with respect to A) - C) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Amendments to the claims necessitated this communication, shared data, being shared through said site or server. As such, examiner relies on Aras as teaching such features. As stated in the rejection, Aras teaches a multi-cast server wherein participants' audio and video streams are transmitted to the multi-cast server which in turn multicasts the streams of data to other participants. As Aras suggests (at least col. 8, lines 33-60; Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-63), an advantage of using a multi-cast server as opposed to point-to-multipoint (peer-to-peer) connections is at least to save bandwidth,

where one participant would not have the same bandwidth to transmit very high bandwidth -consuming audio and video streams to many participants, but would likely have enough benadwidth to transmit one audio and video stream to one server which can multi-cast streams to the many participants. Thus, it would be advantageous to combine Aras with Jiang for at least the reasons above. While Jiang does primarily use a peer-to-peer model to communicate with participants once a conference is in session, as previously stated, Jiang does teach administrative and some non-administrative functions being controlled through the dedicated site, wherein the functions affect all participants and is shared between participants.

Applicants also argue Pinard does not teach a calendar and event planner to include a list of tasks. However, applicants arguments are not persuasive. Pinard teaches a calendar being used for organizational purposes with the status being shown using, for example, a java applet on a web page (at least col. 8 line 66 - col. 9 line 19).

7. Also, Applicants continue to argue, substantially, that Jiang fails to disclose 1) a transmitter feature, 2) a hierarchy feature, and 3) an address database; however, Applicants arguments are not persuasive.

With respect to 1), Jiang discloses a user accessing a site and being able to join a private conference, for example, wherein a password, created by the conference chairperson, is needed to enter the conference, said password clealry being given out to the secondary user as they nominate and deem them eligible to participate via selecting the participants through the IP addresses maintained at the host server site.

With respect to 2), Jiang discloses a chairperson, wherein the chairperson is able to transfer administrative priveleges to other users through the dedicated site, thus allowing transfer of data, ie. administrative privileges and thus user hierarchy rights, between the chairperson and secondary users through the site.

As stated previously, although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The claims specify creating a dedicated site in response to some initiated action and transmitting information between the site and a primary user and the site and a secondary user.

Jiang clearly discloses a user creating a dedicated site. Figure 7 discloses the dedicated website that is created defining the workspace to enable other participants to join into. Jiang discloses a primary user creating the site in Figure 5. A user is designated as being the 'chairperson' of the conference, while other users are designated as being participants and thus a hierarchy of users is created on the host (server) (at least col. 3, lines 44-47; Fig. 4).

Jiang discloses the client obtaining the IP addresses of the other participants so as all communication will be transmitted directly to each of multiple participants, and similarly received directly from each of multiple participants (at least Fig. 1, 2; col. 2, lines 14-38).

Jiang discloses the data to create or join a conference as being stored on the designated web site, and thus for a participant to initiate a connection to the conference, all communication as going through the central host (at least col. 5, lines 12-32). The

timing of when the participants communicate with the central host is not disclosed in the claims. In fact, Jiang clearly discloses while in a conference, data may be transmitted to the host to change the conference chairperson or also to remove a participant from a conference and thus changing the conference record on the host during the conference (at least col. 3, lines 44-61).

With respect to 3), Jiang discloses the IP addresses of other participants to be saved on the host server, and users can transmit invitations to join conferences via usernames or member names without having to know the IP addresses of the participants (at least col. 2, lines 19-41).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tatham et al (possible non-statutory obvious-type double patenting <claim 2>), McArdle et al, Namikata et al, Sonnenreich et al, Porter et al, and Sato et al, Joseph et al, Tafoya et al, Ahuja et al (storing conferences), Harple et al (conference invitations), Gennaro et al (providing webpage to viewers), Smith et al (notifying recipient of document), Henderson et al (alerting recipient of document), D'Arlach et al (creating web-sites), Tarumi (groupware developing), and Yoshizawa (basic groupware systematics) were previously cited for disclosing pertinent information related to the claimed invention. Applicants are requested to consider the prior art reference for relevant teachings when responding to this office action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory G Todd whose telephone number is (571)272-4011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am-6:00pm w/ first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703)308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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